

INTERIOR DESIGNERS ARE CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATORS

Interior designers provide construction administration services for their clients to ensure the general contractor and subcontractors build the premises within local and national building codes and in accordance with the construction documents and specifications. Interior designers protect the client's interests by monitoring the project and construction schedule, and reviewing all payment applications, change orders, and/or proposed cost increases within their scope.

Please note: The denoted requirements are not mandated in all Interior Design projects.

Interior Design Laws of North America

To date, Interior Design laws have been enacted in 27 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and eight Canadian provinces. In some states, use of the term "interior designer" is limited to those professionals meeting the state's requirements. In others, the state regulates the use of "Certified Interior Designer," "Registered Interior Designer," or another specified title. Some states also regulate the practice of Interior Design, as defined by the state law, and unlicensed professionals are prohibited from performing certain Interior Design services. The rights and responsibilities provided to licensed interior designers vary among jurisdictions.

advocacy

YOUR LEGISLATIVE GUIDE TO INTERIOR DESIGN



What Do Interior Designers Do?

Interior designers practice in a variety of settings such as corporate offices, hospitals, hotels, government buildings, and residential homes just to name a few. When designing spaces, interior designers must be knowledgeable in the areas of building codes, building construction, construction materials and methods, specification writing, technical drawings, and business practices. Licensure/registration/certification of professional interior designers practicing in the code-impacted environment protects the health, safety, and well-being of the public because it creates accountability.



INTERIOR DESIGNERS ARE SPACE PLANNERS

Space planning requires interior designers to create drawings documenting the client's goals and requirements. Space planning ensures drawings are in compliance with the International Building Code (IBC) adopted by all states, and any additional state and local codes including:

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

All spaces inhabited by the public are required to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

These requirements include but are not limited to:

- Heights for elevator controls, door hardware, and counters
- Height and depth for objects encroaching on a path of travel or aisleway
- Clearances at doorways including ability and strength required to operate doors
- Provision of ramps and handrails for accessibility
- Required clearances at doors
- Clearances and mounting heights for restroom fixtures (toilets, sinks, mirrors, etc.)

Fire & Life-Safety Codes:

- Provision of clear aisleways and horizontal exiting
- Location and size of fire-rated partitions and doors
- Mounting heights and locations of fire extinguisher cabinets, including free and clear access
- Location of exit signs properly identifying the path of egress for occupants
- Coordination with the electrical engineer for emergency lighting levels
- Coordination with the appropriate sub-contractor/ engineer to locate the audio and visual alarm system throughout the premises
- Specification of materials complying with fire and health codes (fabrics, wallcoverings, draperies, paint, woods, laminates, glazing, and flooring)



INTERIOR DESIGNERS ARE PROJECT MANAGERS

Project management is:

- Preparation of construction and furniture, fixtures, and equipment budgets and schedules
- Preparation of bid documents, coordination of consultants and their work/services
- Review of bids/contracts with consultants
- Review and approval of requested additional services
- Coordination with landlord

These services are provided on behalf of the client protecting their financial and physical interests.



INTERIOR DESIGNERS PREPARE CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS

These documents (varying with the complexity of the project) may consist of:

- Partition plans
- Reflected ceiling plans
- Power and data plans
- Finish plans
- Furniture plans
- Occupancy plans
- Enlarged plans as required
- Fully dimensioned elevations
- Construction details
- Path of egress documents for the project's building and floors including horizontal exiting of occupants
- Fully dimensioned drawings showing full ADA compliance

These drawings are stamped and sealed by the qualified interior designer, coordinated with the engineer(s) where appropriate, and submitted for plan check approval. They are also issued for construction to the selected general contractor.

For more information on what interior designers do, contact IIDA Director of Advocacy, Emily Kluczynski at ekluczynski@iida.org or 312.379.5128.